



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL APPOINTS DONELL PETERMAN TO COUNCIL VACANCY

Pastor Donell Peterman of Silver Spring was appointed today to the County Council, representing District 5, which includes Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Kensington and Wheaton. He fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Councilmember Derick Berlage, who had held the seat for 12 years prior to his June 14th resignation to apply for Planning Board chairman.

"I am grateful and honored to join the County Council and represent District 5," said Peterman, who was sworn into office today in the Council Chamber by County Clerk Molly Ruhl. "I'm happy to be joining this team of true servant leaders in building an All-American county that's truly inclusive of all."

"Pastor Peterman brings a wealth of experience and community service to the Council," said Council President Steve Silverman. "His energy, perspectives, and intellect will, I'm sure, contribute much to our work on the critical issues facing our County."

Pastor Peterman, 35 years old, is a Florida native and attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, where he served as a behavioral science specialist.

Peterman is founding pastor of The Joshua Group Ministries in Silver Spring, with over 500 members and 17 outreach ministries. He is an active member of the Urban League and the NAACP and is past president of the Silver Spring Rotary International Club. He also serves as a board member for Progressive
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Montgomery and Silver Spring Community Vision and is active in the Montgomery County Black Ministers Association and the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce.

His community service activities include work on homelessness and faith-based teen pregnancy prevention.

Pastor Peterman, the second African American ever to serve on the Council, is married to the former Michelle Fredenburg of Chevy Chase. They reside in the Indian Spring community of Silver Spring.

He will serve out the balance of the unexpired Council term until the new Council term begins on December 2, following the November 4 general election. He will serve on the Health & Human Services Committee and the Transportation & Environment Committee.

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